

High School Reform
House Education Committee
January 17, 2006

- I. History (Gene Vincent)
 - A. Iowa Learns Council
 - i. PreK – 16 Council to develop recommendations – recommendations released in 2004.
 - ii. Three committees – Early Childhood, K-12, Postsecondary
 - iii. Both K-12 and postsecondary had recommendations to improve high schools
 - Increasing expectations for high school graduation
 - Provide strong academic support systems to high school students and their parents
 - Renew financial commitment to Teacher Quality legislation
 - Integrate skills necessary in the new economy into curriculum and instruction
 - Provide smooth transitions for students
 - B. State Board Priority – began in 2001
 - i. Community conversations were held across Iowa regarding Iowa Learns recommendations
 - ii. School Team formed 2002 and issued report , “Foundation for Change: Focusing on Iowa High Schools - Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships”
 - iii. Structured Comprehensive School Improvement federal grants to give more weighting to high school reform efforts
 - iv. Joined Director on high school visits
 - v. Endorsed Rigor and Relevance document
- II. Discuss findings of high school visits (Judy Jeffrey)
 - A. Spring, 2005 – Visits included local board president, high school principal, superintendent, Director, and when possible a State Board member. Took a data profile of districts that showed graduation requirements, student achievement, hopes and dreams of students; and compared to state information. Conversations occurred in small groups throughout the state; note takers accompanied each visit.
 - B. Team of individuals analyzed the notes and produced recommendations in the following categories: policy, technical assistance needs, and promising practices.
 - C. Imperative must be addressed by statewide efforts, not one school at a time, although the change will have to take place one school at a time.
 - D. Policy:
 - i. Local control
 - ii. Strengthen local control through checks and balances – pay attention to the outcomes being produced rather than processes and regulations
 - iii. No more unfunded mandates
 - iv. Fully fund Teacher Quality
 - v. Develop curriculum models
 - vi. Provide financial incentives for teachers in hard-to-staff areas
 - vii. Maintain strong licensure requirements
 - E. Technical Assistance
 - i. Embed improvement efforts in CSIP/PD model
 - ii. Provide support to LEAs in curriculum
 - iii. Provide tools to help LEAs identify needs, data analysis, etc.
 - iv. Provide instructional and organizational models that improve teacher/student ratio
 - v. 8th grade career plans

- vi. Disseminate information from community college/employability skills needed
 - vii. Change college entrance requirements
 - viii. Provide models to help students succeed academically - AP, Dual Credit, behavior supports
 - F. Promising Practices
 - i. Expand work of High School Steering Committee
- III. Activities – past 12 months – 5 elements as we planned activities
- A. Handout
 - i. Determine current graduation requirements
 - 2005 – 104 districts required 3 or more math units
 - 2010 – 256 districts require “ “ “
 - 2005 – 65 districts required 3 or more science units
 - 2010 – 239 districts requiring “ “ “ “
 - ii. Currently we have 21 districts that do not have a high school and 32 districts that are sharing a high school.
 - iii. Current graduation rate – disparities in rate among subgroups
 - White students – 91%
 - African American – 74%
 - Hispanic – 72%
 - iv. Project Easier – student IDs
 - v. Given the aging of our state population, the increases in our diversity it is imperative that if we will meet the economic demands of our state we must increase the preparation and the graduation rate of our minority and ethnic students.
 - B. Public information campaign
 - C. Facilitator training
 - D. Statewide High School Steering Committee – advisory, broad representation
 - E. Design Team – model framework to be used by AEAs
 - F. High School Summits
 - i. Dec. 2004 1400 participants, 225 districts
 - ii. Jan. 2006 1475 participants, 268 districts
 - G. International Center for Leadership in Education – 20 participant high schools working with William Daggett to get intensive technical support for reform initiatives.

Iowa Department of Education

Activities to Support High School Initiatives

Coding for Outcome:

- A. High expectations, rigor & relevance
- B. Strong leadership
- C. Quality teaching – Professional dev.
- D. Academic & career planning
- E. Community support/alliances

What	When	Description	Funding	Outcome
1. Review current graduation requirements	Jan. – Feb. 2005	A review of data to gain baseline data on graduation requirements and district plans to establish more rigorous graduation requirements. Contact Pam Pfitzenmaier, pam.pfitzenmaier@iowa.gov , 515/281-3333.	State	A
2. Foundation for Change: Focusing on Iowa High Schools report	2001	In July 2001 the State Board committed itself and the Department of Education to a serious study of Iowa high schools with a goal of developing specific recommendations. The ensuing work team conducted a thorough literature review, conversations with Iowans across the state, and the review of a sampling of promising practices in Iowa high schools as they aligned with the literature review. The report is structured around five critical characteristics for effective high schools that are based in the literature review and supported by the community conversations and the review of promising practices.	State	A, B, C, D, E
3. High School Review Visits	Feb. – May 2005	Small group conversations hosted by State Board and the Department to listen to high school principals, superintendents, and board about rigor/relevance. Contact Kathi Slaughter, kathi.slaughter@iowa.gov , 515/281-5651.	State	A, B
4. Community Conversations	Jan. – May 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twelve Community Conversations were held in local communities to meet and discuss with stakeholders issues related to high school reform. A facilitator guide developed for use in additional conversations is available at the department website. Contact Rita Martens, rita.martens@iowa.gov ; 515/281-3145	Regional laboratory grant	A, E
5. Public information campaign	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform target audiences about need for high schools to change and improve. Build grassroots support and motivate citizen involvement. Contact Kathi Slaughter, kathi.slaughter@iowa.gov ; 515/281-5651	Gates Foundation	A
6. Facilitator training	Jan. – Dec. 2005	Iowa version of Breaking Ranks II. Each AEA has at least one trainer (26 trainers total to date). Facilitators work with local districts to examine local data to identify skill areas for development.	Gates Foundation	A, B, C
7. Statewide High School Steering Committee	On-going	An advisory committee that provides coordinated support and helps the integration of high school reform on a statewide basis. The committee has set up a webpage, provided input to various high school reform initiatives, created a network of resources, and obtained input from national expertise on different aspects of high school reform. The 45 members include representation from the Department, AEAs, higher education, SAI, ISEA, IASB, Institute for Character Development, the Iowa Business Council, private business, and parent organizations. Contact Warren Weber, warren.weber@iowa.gov ; 515/281-3750.	Expenses are paid by participants and/or the agency they represent.	B, E

What	When	Description	Funding	Outcome
8. High School Design Team	Jan. – Sept. 2006	The design team will develop a model framework that can be used by AEAs as they support local high school implementation of high school reform. The design will tie together the six elements of high school reform and the current school improvement processes provided to local schools by the AEAs. The six elements include a focus on 1) professional development, 2) rigorous and relevant curriculum, 3) student assessment and program evaluation, 4) school environment and student focused systems, 5) collaborative leadership, and 6) high expectations. Contact Warren Weber, warren.weber@iowa.gov ; 515/281-3750	Gates Foundation	A, B, C, D, E
9. Iowa Professional Development Model	On-going	A model for research-based professional development that boosts student achievement. Contact Deb Hansen, deb.hansen@iowa.gov ; 515/281-6131.	State and federal	C
10. Comprehensive School Reform (CSR)	On-going	A grant program designed to provide resources to schools involved in reform efforts, such as High Schools That Work or Making the Middle Grades Work. Other examples: Renaissance Learning, Turning Points, Smaller Learning Communities, the Artful Learning Model, Classroom Instruction that Works, Reading Strategies for Content Areas, Reading Rescue, NCA Transitions, Integrated Thematic Instruction, Effective Schools, Creating Independent Student-owned Strategies (CRISS). 50 Iowa schools are receiving annual grants of \$50,000 for a three-year period. Contact Rita Martens; rita.martens@iowa.gov ; 515/281-3145.	Federal (slated for elimination)	A, B, C, D, E
11. High School Summit	December 2004	Conference for 1,400 participants (225 school districts) to raise awareness among Iowa local district administrators and teachers concerning the importance of high school improvement efforts. Contact Warren Weber, warren.weber@iowa.gov ; 515/281-3750.	Wallace grant, registration fees	A, B, E
12. Development of Improving Rigor and Relevance in the High School Curriculum , follow-up ICN informational session, study questions	Paper endorsed August 2005, ICN sessions held in November and December 2005	A paper designed to build knowledge base for curriculum changes, especially concepts of “rigor” and “relevance”. The State Board endorsed the paper in August 2005. ICN sessions designed to improve AEA consultants’ knowledge of the Rigor and Relevance Framework and its alignment to Every Child Reads, Every Student Counts, and Every Learner Inquires were held. Study questions have been developed for educators to use to direct conversations and study issues of rigor and relevance locally. Available at http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/hsbf/documents.html . Contact Rita Martens; rita.martens@iowa.gov ; 515/281-3145.	State	A, C
13. SF 245 – Model core curriculum	September 2005-May 2006	DE project to identify the core content and skills of a world-class curriculum in literacy, math, and science. Distribute to districts for their local establishment of a core curriculum. Contact Rita Martens; rita.martens@iowa.gov ; 515/281-3145.	Gates Foundation	A, B, C, D, E
14. SF 245 – 8th grade planner	September 2005-May 2006	Distribute planning tools to districts to help them implement high school and career planning for students in grades 8-12. Contact Linda Berg; linda.berg@iowa.gov ; 515/2425614.	State CSAC	A, B, D, E
15. Second Annual High School Summit	January 23-24, 2006	A conference to provide specific examples of high school reform from schools nationwide. Iowa administrators and teachers will learn how to incorporate improvements in courses, instruction, and programs, and how to provide the necessary support so all students succeed with a rigorous curriculum. See http://www.sai-iowa.org/events.html . 1,475 registered from 268 districts.	Federal funds and registration fees	A, B, C, E

What	When	Description	Funding	Outcome
16. Every Student Counts	On-going	Professional development in research-based math strategies for middle and high schools. Contact Jim Reese, jim.reese@iowa.gov ; 515/281-4158; or Judith Spitzli, Judith.Spitzli@iowa.gov ; 515/281-3874.	Federal funding; AEA staff	C
17. Adolescent Literacy Efforts	On-going	Professional development in research-based strategies appropriate to middle and high school struggling readers and non-readers. Aspects of the effort include Every Child Reads, the State Wide Reading Team, the Strategic Instruction Model, and an NGA grant to improve instruction.	Federal funding; AEA staff	C
18. Learning Supports	On-going	Programs at elementary and middle schools to provide support for positive emotional, behavioral and social climates in schools. Contact Jane Todey, jane.todey@iowa.gov ; 515/281-8514.	Federal funds, AEA staff	C, E
19. Iowa AP Online Academy	On-going	Provide access to online AP courses for Iowa's high school students. Contact Rosanne Malek; Rosanne.malek@iowa.gov , 515/281-3199.	Federal funding	A
20. Iowa Learning Online	On-going	Provide access to online coursework in math, sciences and other content areas for Iowa's high school students. Contact Pam Pfizenmaier, pam.pfizenmaier@iowa.gov ; 515/281-3333.	Federal and state grants	A
21. Instructional Decision Making Process	On-going	Technical Assistance to AEA's that are implementing/planning to implement the IDM process in local districts	Federal funds	A, B, C
22. Iowa Department of Education and International Center for Leadership in Education "High School Project"	Fall 2005 - Ongoing	<p>The International Center for Leadership in Education provides services to schools, school districts and states to help them improve their education systems. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers on school reform and organizing schools for learning. • Master Teachers who demonstrate how to improve instruction. • Annual conferences and academies. • Publications for administrators, teachers and students. • Videos for the entire school and community. • A framework to make instruction more rigorous and relevant. • Data collection instruments. • A total solution approach to school reform. <p>20 high schools have been selected for the Project, which focuses on increasing student achievement efforts through a concentration on struggling learners within the Rigor/Relevance Framework (05-06). Additional 20 participants will be added in 06-07. Additional 20 participants will be added in 07-08.</p>	Federal funds	A, B, C, D, E